

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4 have been amended. Claim 3 has been cancelled.

Method claims 1, 2, and 4 remain in the application. Claim 1 is the sole independent method claim.

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based upon Joh et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,508,535.

Claim 1 has been amended to define a method of providing cardiac support comprising using first and second cannula bodies. The first cannula body has a main lumen through which the second cannula body is advanced. The first cannula body includes a preformed bend that, when placed through a first heart valve within a heart chamber, is oriented to direct the second cannula body, when advanced through the first cannula body, through a second heart valve into a desired vascular region spaced from the heart chamber. As defined in amended claim 1, the method bypasses the heart chamber by drawing blood into a main lumen of the first cannula body through an inlet upstream of a first valve that leads into the heart chamber, and conveying the blood from the main lumen of the first cannula body into an interior lumen of the second cannula body, and discharging the blood through a distal opening of the second cannula body outlet downstream of a second valve that leads from the heart chamber and into the vascular region.

Support for the claim can be found, e.g., on Specification page 21, lines 6 to 32, and in Fig. 23. For example, Fig. 23 shows the first cannula body 220 and the second cannula body 260 advanced through the first cannula body 220. The first cannula body 220 includes a preformed bend 240 that, when placed through a heart valve within a heart chamber, is oriented to direct the second cannula body 260, when advanced through the first cannula body, through a second heart valve into a desired vascular region spaced from the heart chamber.

The Joh et al device would not be inherently capable of performing the steps as recited in these method claims.” Joh does not teach or suggest a second cannula body that is advanced through a first cannula body, which is bent and, in use, oriented to direct the second cannula body, when advanced through the first cannula body, into a desired vascular region spaced from the heart chamber.

Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and foregoing remarks.

Respectfully Submitted,

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